

May 4, 1979

LB 596

SENATOR KEYES: I would like to ask Senator Johnson a question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR KEYES: Senator Johnson, I think Governor Exon one time two or three years ago, I don't know what it was, met together and we discussed this and it was my understanding that from now on that the social security would not deduct from your welfare or your special checks that you got from the state and is that practice starting up again now?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, yes, it is very interesting, Senator Keyes. I know exactly what you are talking about because this body got into a hoorah with Governor Exon about two years ago on exactly this issue, where the Governor said we have got to put enough money in the welfare budget to ensure that these federal increases are actually passed on to the state's poor and the Legislature didn't want to do that, but finally in the waning days of the session, it went ahead and did that. Now since that time, since that time, the Welfare Department has been a little bit more mindful of what happens, and as a result, inevitably will increase its standard of need in the old age program and the blind program and the disabled program, but my experience has been that the increase is never quite enough as the actual federal increase so what really happens is that when, say, the federal check goes up \$10 a month, the state check drops but it doesn't drop the full \$10 a month. So in effect there is a pass through of a portion of the amount, not a full pass through but a portion of the amount. Now this little intent language ensures that, by golly, there is going to be a pass through of the full amount by making certain that that state check is not reduced at all.

SENATOR KEYES: Thank you, Senator Johnson. That supports exactly what I thought we were doing now.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the Johnson amendment to, the first Johnson amendment, to LB 596. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion carried and the first Johnson amendment is adopted. Now, Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, the second Johnson amendment is a little more complicated but it really deals with the whole subject of what is a standard